

Town of Groton
Invasive Species Committee
24 February 2025
Meeting Minutes



Committee Members Present:

Charlotte Weigel
Jonathan Basch*
Olin Lathrop
Adam Burnett
Ron Strohsahl
Ann Carpenter*
Brian Bettencourt

Committee Members Not Present:

Ben Wolfe
Richard Hewitt

* indicates attendance via Zoom

Agenda:

1. Review minutes and action items from January meeting
 2. Discuss comments to draft article for the Groton Herald
 3. Discuss grant proposal for Carol Wheeler park
 4. Plans for 2025 (eg Garlic Mustard Pull)
 5. All other business
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The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

1. The first order of business was: Review minutes and action items from the January meeting
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. Minutes amended for accuracy
 1. Charlotte Weigel moved to approve the minutes as amended
 2. Brian Bettencourt seconded the motion
 3. The motion passed by roll call vote (6-0-1)
 - a. Abstain: Adam Burnett
 - b. Action Items:
 - i. Assigned Previously:
 1. Jonathan Basch will check email accounts listed on the Committee's bank account to ensure accuracy and determine when the updates are sent. No members received a January update. - **completed, Town is having IT issues but provided report that was forwarded to all members on 2/23 via email**
 2. Olin Lathrop to purchase jug of Garlon 4 Ultra for Committee use prior to field season - **not completed, will be done before field season**
 3. All members to review Ann's article regarding invasive species for the Groton Herald - **completed**
 4. Brian Bettencourt to create Committee brochure for identifying/removing Japanese stiltgrass - **completed**
 5. All members email small excerpts of relevant material to Brian; including, how to ID, how to remove, treatment methods, etc. - **completed**
 6. Olin Lathrop to reach out to MDAR about efforts to identify "lingering ash" throughout Massachusetts - **completed, DCR willing to give public presentation**

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during evening to Town members; NY group has not responded. Searching for venues and dates in May to schedule public presentation

7. Jonathan Basch to contact Williams Barn Committee for possible use of site for Garlic Mustard Pull/Invasive Species Removal event - ***completed, but need to return while they have a quorum for endorsement***

2. The second order of business was: Discuss comments to draft article for the Groton Herald
 - a. Jonathan Basch suggests adding a link to the MIPAG website so people can see whether a plant is invasive or not
 - b. Ann Carpenter will add scientific names, add paragraph promoting the Garlic Pull Event, direct readers to the Committee's website and brochures, and make edits to text suggested by Committee members
 - c. Jonathan Basch makes motion to approval article as amended
 - i. Adam Burnett seconded
 - ii. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote

3. The third order of business was: Discuss grant proposal for Carol Wheeler park
 - a. Olin Lathrop: The Stewardship Committee will request Wild and Scenic River grant in 2026 to restore the park and is requesting endorsements from other Committees prior to submittal next year
 - i. Charlotte Weigel: we don't know what we're endorsing yet
 - ii. Olin Lathrop: we'd be endorsing the concept of treatment/management/maintenance of the Park, including invasive plant removal, now, and approve another endorsement with more details in the future
 - b. Jonathan Basch: a lot of the funding would be for restoration/maintenance following treatment
 - c. Brian Bettencourt moves to endorse collaborative effort to improve Carol Wheeler Park with Wild and Scenic grant funding, to increase biodiversity and native plants on the property
 - i. Olin Lathrop seconded
 - ii. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote
 - d. Olin Lathrop will report back to Stewardship Committee regarding our endorsement

4. The fourth order of business was: Plans for 2025 (e.g., Garlic Mustard Pull)
 - a. Jonathan Basch attended Williams Barn Committee meeting on February 21, 2025, and members are supportive of the event. An Invasive Species Committee representative will have to return for the next meeting for an approved endorsement.
 - b. Jonathan Basch also coordinated with Erin Jade of the Littleton Conservation Trust regarding the Garlic Pull Event they host at Fay Park. The discussion included coordination for sponsors and activities to increase turnout
 - c. Charlotte Weigel will post about the event on the Groton Sustainability Commission website and Facebook group when a date is set
 - d. Target for Garlic Pull Event will be either May 10 or 17, 2025
 - i. Olin Lathrop makes motion to allow Jonathan Basch to schedule event
 1. Charlotte Weigel seconded
 2. Motion is approved by unanimous roll call vote

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5. The fifth order of business was: All other business
 - a. Japanese stiltgrass brochure
 - i. The Committee reviewed the brochure and incorporated suggested edits
 - ii. Olin Lathrop made a motion to accept the Japanese stiltgrass brochure as edited for publishing
 1. Ann Carpenter seconded
 2. Motion is approved by unanimous roll call vote

ACTION ITEM: Brian Bettencourt to discuss with Town of Groton IT staff to add the brochure to Town website

ACTION ITEM: Brian Bettencourt to contact Richard Hewitt to coordinate brochure printing with Commissioner of Trust Fund

- b. Charlotte Weigel: The Sustainability Commission will be presenting a Resolution at the next Town Meeting (April)
 - i. Climate Decarbonization Resolution: sets goal for town to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, and assist Town citizens to lower their emissions to help achieve the goal
 1. Having an approved Climate Resolution is a step to being a “Climate Leader” community which allows access to additional state and federal funding
 2. Sustainability Commission polled Town citizens and had positive results regarding addressing climate change and majority said they would support implementing methods to reach net-zero emissions in Town
 3. Some Boards and Committees endorsed the Resolution already
 - a. Some require Select Board direction; others unable to provide direction
 4. With the positive results, the Sustainability Commission determined that Resolution would likely be favored by Town members and it will be voted on at the 2025 Spring Town Meeting
 - ii. Charlotte Weigel: Would the Committee be willing to include a letter of support in support of the Resolution?
 - iii. Motion to review Resolution will be put on March agenda for review
 - c. Ron Strohsahl: MDAR had a webinar on spotted lanternfly and it will be archived on Youtube in the near future
 - i. Adam Burnett and Olin Lathrop attended webinar
 1. The fungus affecting the insect did not reduce the population significantly

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

OLD ACTION ITEMS + NEW

1. **Olin Lathrop to purchase jug of Garlon 4 Ultra for Committee use prior to field season**

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- 2. Olin Lathrop continue to coordinate with MDAR about efforts to identify “lingering ash” throughout Massachusetts**
- 3. Jonathan Basch to return to Williams Barn Committee for approval to use parcel for Garlic Mustard Pull/Invasive Species Removal event**
- 4. Brian Bettencourt to discuss with Town of Groton IT staff to add it to Town website**
- 5. Brian Bettencourt to contact Richard Hewitt to coordinate brochure printing with CPC funding**